

the amino acid sequence $X_1 \dots X_n$ is selected from the group comprising the amino acid sequences VGG, VLSG, ATG, VSG, DSG, VVSG, ALAG, APSG and VGR, or

- F1 cont
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which codes for an amino acid sequence with an equivalent recognition specificity, as achieved with a T cell receptor comprising a CDR3 region with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 23, for the peptide component of the T cell receptor ligands.

F2
H2

Claim 4 (Amended).

Nucleic acid as claimed in claim 2

wherein

the amino acid sequence $X_1 \dots X_n$ is selected from the group comprising amino acid sequences VGG, VLSG and ATG.

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 4-45 are pending. Claims 8-25 and 27-44 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 2, 4-7, 26 and 45 are rejected. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended. Enclosed is a marked up copy of the claims setting forth all changes to the claims. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the application, for example at page 11 (first paragraph) and Example 2 of the specification. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections.

Claim 4

The Office Action states that the previous amendment to claim 4 has not been entered because such amendment directed the deletion of the number "1" whereas claim 4 does not contain the number "1". Applicant appreciates the Examiner's comments and notes that claim 4 has been amended with appropriate correction as indicated above.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 2, 4-7, 26 and 45 are rejected as not enabled. The Office Action alleges that the specification is not enabling for any functional derivative or any fragment thereof. Claim 4 has been amended. Applicant notes that claim 4 has been amended so as to delete the phrase "functional derivative or a fragment thereof". Claim 4 has been amended to indicate that the isolated nucleic acid of the present invention may code for the α chain of a human T cell receptor, a single chain T cell receptor or a soluble T cell receptor fragment. Applicant points to the specification at page 11 (first paragraph) and Example 2 as providing full support for such amendment including the disclosure of the preparation of single chain T cell receptors or soluble T cell receptor fragments. Applicant therefore urges that all claims are fully enabled.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

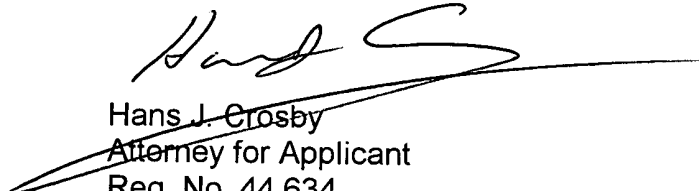
Claims 4-7 and 26 are rejected as indefinite. The Office Action states that claim 4 and its dependent claims depend from a canceled claim. As indicated above, claim 4 has

been amended so as to be dependent from pending claim 2. Applicant urges that this rejection is moot in light of such amendment.

Applicant respectfully urges that the claimed invention is in condition for allowance, and therefore, respectfully requests an early notification to that effect.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such extension, together with any additional fees which may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,
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Claim 2 (Amended). Isolated nucleic acid which codes for the α chain of a human T cell receptor, a single chain T cell receptor or a soluble T cell receptor fragment [or for a functional derivative or a fragment thereof] and comprises a CDR3 region selected from:

- (a) a nucleotide sequence coding for the amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO: 23)

Y C L (X₁ . . . X_n) S A R Q L T F

in which X₁ . . . X_n represents a sequence of 3-5 amino acids, wherein the amino acid sequence X₁ . . . X_n is selected from the group comprising the amino acid sequences VGG, VLSG, ATG, VSG, DSG, VWSG, ALAG, APSG and VGR, or

- (b) a nucleotide sequence which codes for an amino acid sequence with an equivalent recognition specificity, as achieved with a T cell receptor comprising a CDR3 region with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 23, for the peptide component of the T cell receptor ligands.

Claim 4 (Amended). Nucleic acid as claimed in claim 2 [claim 3]

wherein

the amino acid sequence X₁ . . . X_n is selected from the group comprising amino acid sequences VGG, VLSG and ATG.